



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Master of Narrative Therapy & Community Work

2014

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences



**The Department of Social Work  
in partnership with  
The Dulwich Centre and its international faculty**



# Course Information

## BACKGROUND

Narrative therapy is a respectful, non-blaming approach to counselling and community work, which centres people as the experts in their own lives. It views problems as separate from people and assumes people have many skills, competencies, beliefs, values, commitments and abilities that will assist them to reduce the influence of problems in their lives.

Narrative approaches to therapy and community work are used by social workers, psychologists, community development workers, nurses, teachers, doctors, and other health professionals in a wide range of practice settings.

The Dulwich Centre is an international centre for narrative therapy training, established in 1984. Since this time The Dulwich Centre has led the development of narrative therapy which is now considered a mainstream modality in many contexts.

The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work provides formal training and recognition for narrative therapy and is delivered as a joint initiative of the Department of Social Work (The University of Melbourne) and The Dulwich Centre, Adelaide.

## COURSE OVERVIEW & STRUCTURE

The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work is a University of Melbourne postgraduate specialist qualification consisting of 3 subjects to achieve 100 credit points of study:

- Advanced Narrative Skills Development (25 points)
- The Art of Narrative Practice (25 points)
- Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis (50 points)

The program is delivered through a combination of two face-to-face intensive two-week teaching blocks at The Dulwich Centre (Adelaide), and an on-line program of work. The first teaching block will take place 16th to 28th March 2014. The second teaching block will take place 26th October to 8th November 2014.

The program provides participants with the flexibility to complete the degree either full-time and over two semesters as a twelve month program, or part-time and over four semesters as a twenty four month program.

## ACADEMIC TEAM

The academic team will consist of leading national and international trainers. It will be drawn from The Dulwich Centre International Faculty ([www.dulwichcentre.com.au/about-dulwich-centre.html](http://www.dulwichcentre.com.au/about-dulwich-centre.html)) and the Department of Social Work, The University of Melbourne.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Those applying to undertake the degree would typically be professionals working with individuals, families or communities, who are interested in enhancing their clinical and practice-research skills in narrative therapy and community work. The combination of intensive delivery supported by distance and on-line learning means it is accessible to students across Australia and internationally.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. An undergraduate degree in a cognate discipline or equivalent; and
2. Evidence of two years of relevant work experience; and
3. Evidence of completion of prior narrative therapy studies at The Dulwich Centre or equivalent; and
4. Statement of up to 500 words by the Applicant; and
5. A professional referee report.

English language requirements will be IELTS 6.5 on all bands.

The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and tests and may call for referee reports or employer references to elucidate any of the above-mentioned matters. To enable proper consideration of your application, the necessary supporting documentation should be uploaded when you apply for this course.

Recognition of Prior Learning is available for those who have completed long-term training programs with The Dulwich Centre. This means that they are only required to attend one of the intensive teaching blocks in Australia.

Eligibility for Credit and RPL	Allowable Credit	Supporting Evidence Required with Application
Past Graduates of The Dulwich Centre International Training Program	50 points credit for the subjects Advanced Narrative Skills Development and the Art of Narrative Practice	Certificate of course completion from The Dulwich Centre
Graduates of The Dulwich Centre 'Graduate Certificate Programs' in Hong Kong, Singapore and Greece	25 points credit for Advanced Narrative Skills Development	Certificate of course completion from The Dulwich Centre



# Subject Overview

## SUBJECTS

### ADVANCED NARRATIVE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In this subject, students acquire skills in engaging with ten key practice maps of narrative therapy, including externalising, re-authoring, re-membering, definitional ceremony, documentation, absent but implicit, failure conversations map, responding to trauma, engagement with folk culture metaphors (tree of life/team of life/kite of life) and enabling contribution or social action. They also develop skills in analysing and evaluating the effects of their use of these maps of practice and in proposing alternative questions as well as lines of enquiry, in therapeutic and/or collective practice.

### THE ART OF NARRATIVE PRACTICE

Students acquire a working knowledge of the diversity of ways in which narrative practices are being engaged with children, young people and adults as well as with individuals, groups, organisations and communities, in a range of different cultural contexts across the globe. Students are required to analyse developments in the field in relation to their implications for their own practice in their own local cultural context.

### NARRATIVE PRACTICE & RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

Students are challenged to innovate their own forms of narrative practice. Teaching focuses on some of the different methods of innovating that have contributed to new forms of narrative practice, such as co-research, partnerships, cross-cultural invention, folk cultural innovation, synthesis of practice with readings from outside the field, responding to challenges in relation to politics of experience and translations across languages.

This involves revisiting some of the social and intellectual histories of narrative practice and drawing on recent international innovations as case studies of innovation. Drawing on these histories and practices of innovation, in the second half of the subject, as the capstone experience, students are then required to undertake an original piece of practice research, with findings presented in a standard required for publication.

## FEES

Fees in 2014 are \$16,480 for full-time students and are subject to an annual increase.

Subjects	Study Points	Fees in 2014
Advanced Narrative Skills Development	25	\$4,120
The Art of Narrative Practice	25	\$4,120
Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis	50	\$8,240
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$16,480</b>

Fees include tuition, course materials and access to on-line resources and the opportunity to attend a public graduation ceremony. As enrolled students of the University of Melbourne, students have access to a range of facilities and amenities provided by the University of Melbourne.

## FEE-HELP AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FEE-HELP provides interest-free loans to eligible students to help pay part or all of their tuition. For more information: <http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/help-paying-my-fees/fee-help>

## ANITA MORAWETZ SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of the Anita Morawetz Trust, a number of scholarships covering part of the tuition fee for this course are available. The scholarships are open to students whose practice research will, in the selection committee's opinion, contribute to the clinical practice of family therapy (work with families, groups and/or communities) in Australia.

A scholarship application form providing more information and details of the selection criteria and application process is available at <http://www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy>

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THE COURSE

- Confirm you are able to attend the course intensive components.
- Collate all the necessary documentation to support your application.
- Contact us if you have any questions.
- Go to <http://www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy>.
- Select "apply now" from this page and complete your application details and upload your supporting documentation.
- You will receive an automatic confirmation that your application has been submitted.
- You will be contacted if there are any aspects of your application that are unclear or missing.
- After the selection committee has reviewed your application, if you meet the entry requirements, and if there are still places available, you will be given an offer of a place which you need to accept using the University's on-line student system.
- Our student services team will help you complete the formal on-line aspects of your enrolment.
- We will invoice you for any fees, based on the payment method you have selected.



## About the University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is among the oldest and largest universities in Australia. It is a research intensive, comprehensive institution with a strong postgraduate commitment. It aims to be one of the finest universities in the world - a proud institution of higher learning producing graduates, scholarship and research that matters to the nation and beyond. Social Work programs have been offered at The University of Melbourne for more than seventy years.

## About the Department of Social Work

Social Work, in the Melbourne School of Health Sciences, is a vibrant learning community which seeks to influence professional practice through high quality educational experiences for our students. Our research training programs at masters and PhD levels are highly regarded as producing research leaders and are enhanced by collaborations with leading universities internationally. We are well known for clinical and professional research in health, mental health and child and family practice, and are a destination of choice for visiting researchers from many countries. For more information see: [www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au/about\\_us/welcome](http://www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au/about_us/welcome).

This Masters program is being administered on behalf of the Department of Social Work by the School of Melbourne Custom Programs, which provides the University with a mechanism for the development and delivery of demand driven, customised award and non-award programs.

## About the Dulwich Centre

The Dulwich Centre is known as one of the homes of narrative therapy. As an independent centre in Adelaide, Australia, The Dulwich Centre is involved in the development of narrative approaches to therapy and community work, training, publishing, and co-hosting international conferences (in Australia, Brazil, UK, Hong Kong, Norway, USA and Mexico). Over the last 30 years, The Dulwich Centre has always been, and continues to be, a place of innovation and creativity. Through The Dulwich Centre Foundation International, they work in partnership in a wide range of countries and contexts developing respectful and effective ways of responding to social suffering. For more information see: [www.dulwichcentre.com.au](http://www.dulwichcentre.com.au)

## More Information

### For general enquiries and applications contact:

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### For further information please refer to the course webpage

[www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy](http://www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy)



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DISCLAIMER

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate. Changes may be made to such things as course content and presenters. Students will be advised of changes as soon as practicable.

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